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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 FEA-02 INT-08 (ISO) W
---------- 033071
R 301615Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2491
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL DOUALA VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0313

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CM, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS

REF: YAOUNDE 4008 AND 0018

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DUPUY INFORMS ME HE WILL BE LEAVING CAMEROON IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS. HE INDICATED PARIS WAS NOT PLEASED WITH WAY AHIDJO HANDLED THE ENDING OF PRIVILEGED STATUS OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 2, 1974 (YAOUNDE 0018). FRENCH WOULD HAVE WELCOMED SOME PUBLIC GURC RECOGNITION THAT RENUNCIATION OF PRIVILEGE WAS AT FRENCH INITIATIVE. IT ALSO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IT IF GURC ONCE PRINCIPLE WAS ESTABLISHED, HAD BEEN PREPARED TO AWAIT DUPUY'S DEPARTURE BEFORE IMPLEMENTING IT. OBVIOUSLY AHIDJO FOUND IT POLITICALLY USEFUL TO ACT AS HE DID. FACT THAT DUPUY HAS BEEN HERE FOR OVER TWO YEARS AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE NOT A PRECIPITOUS ONE WILL TEND TO OBSCURE REASON FOR HIS TRANSFER, AT LEAST FOR GENERAL PUBLIC.

2. DUPUY ALSO STATED THAT FRENCH/CAMEROON NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD RESUME DURING FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY, HE HOPED AROUND
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FEBRUARY 10. MAIN PROBLEMS REMAIN THOSE OF DOMANIAL PROPERTY

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AND AIR AGREEMENT. HE CONTINUES REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED. PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECGEN SENGAT KUO LIKEWISE CONFIRMED TO ME IMMINENCE OF RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. HE REFERRED TO THEM AS "THIRD PHASE" BUT HOPED THEY WOULD REPRESENT FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AS HE FELT IT IN INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES THAT AGREEMENTS BE CONCLUDED.

3. DUPUY MET WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO JANUARY 26. HE DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING WHICH I PRESUME WAS MAIN PURPOSE OF CALL ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO SPECIFICALLY. ACCORDING DUPUY, AHIDJO SEEMED FAIRLY RELAXED ABOUT DEVALUATION AND ACCEPTED GISCARD EXPLANATION THAT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR PRIOR CONSULTATIONS. AHIDJO HOWEVER EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER LONGER TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS CAMEROON WHICH LACK PETROLEUM OR OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES.
MOORE

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NNN

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